



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE DEPORTS SUSPECTED MURDERER TO GEORGIA

NEWARK, N.J. – A man wanted for murder in the Republic of Georgia was removed from the United States by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers February 18.

Gochi Gabidauri, 31, is wanted on an INTERPOL warrant by Georgian authorities for allegedly shooting a man to death in March 2002. He had illegally entered the United States in August 2003 and later claimed asylum. His request was denied and ICE officers arrested him in October 2003.

Gabidauri was held in ICE custody following his arrest and was ordered deported by an immigration judge in January. He was escorted back to the Republic of Georgia by officers from the Newark Office of ICE Detention and Removal Operations (DRO). The ICE officers escorted Gabidauri to Tblisi, Georgia, where he was turned over to Georgian authorities without incident.

“We are pleased that we have removed another dangerous criminal from the streets of our community,” said Michael Anderson, Acting DRO Field Office Director in Newark. “This sends an important message that ICE will not allow our country and our immigration system to be used as a refuge for criminals.”

Last year, ICE DRO in Newark removed 2,443 aliens, 55 percent of whom were criminals. Removal of Georgian nationals, while unusual, is not unprecedented. Last year, ICE nationwide removed 45 Georgian nationals, 18 of whom were convicted of crimes in the United States.

DRO, one of five ICE divisions, is responsible for promoting public safety and national security by ensuring the departure of all removable aliens from the United States through the effective enforcement of the nation’s immigration laws. DRO strives to ensure the integrity of the U.S. immigration system by swiftly apprehending and removing offenders.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.